



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 19, 2000

Sally Brough
Water Quality Standards Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Re: John M. Asplund Water
Pollution Control Facility

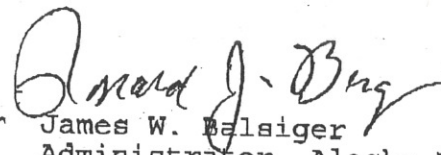
Dear Ms. Brough:

This letter responds to your letter dated April 4, 2000, concerning the re-issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the above referenced facility and the consultation requirements for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared a Biological Evaluation for the above referenced action. The EPA has determined that the re-issuance of the NPDES permit for the water pollution control facility and the approval of the site-specific numeric criteria for metals and a narrative criterion for turbidity are not likely to adversely affect endangered and threatened species in the area. We concur with this determination.

The EPA has also prepared an EFH Assessment in accordance with the requirements specified under 50 CFR § 600.920(a)(1). As a result of that assessment, EPA has determined that the re-issuance of the NPDES permit for the water pollution control facility and the approval of the site-specific numeric criteria for metals and a narrative criterion for turbidity would not adversely affect EFH. NMFS concurs with the findings of the EFH assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We reserve the right to make additional comments should more information become available. Please direct any questions to our Anchorage field office at (907) 271-5006.

Sincerely,

For 
James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

